Demand for transparent SEZ policy

2435. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the associations of industry have demanded a transparent, consistent and sustaninable SEZ policy;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to revise the extant SEZ policy;

(c) the details of reasons for freezing/going slow regarding the SEZ's at present; and

(d) the details of SEZ's earmarked/given permission in Andhra Pradesh and the progress made in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes Sir. One such representation on various issues relating to Special Economic Zones (SEZs) was received.

(b) and (c) Various issues relating to SEZs have been placed before the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM). Pending further directions by EGoM, fresh approvals for setting up new SEZs are presently on hold.

(d) After the special Economic Zones Act 2005 and the Special Economic Rules 2006 came into operation from 10th February 2006, 45 formal approvals for setting up SEZs in Andhra Pradesh were granted of which one proposal has since been withdrawn. Out of the 44 valid formal approvals, notifications have been issued in respect of 15 SEZs.

Revival of SSI and medium scale sick Industries

2436. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sickness in SSI and medium scale industries in the country is increasing day-by-day;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps Government propose to take or have taken so far, for revival of industrial sickness in a time bound manner;